

Nixon aide hits charge

By WARD WINSLOW

A spokesman for former Vice President Richard M. Nixon said today that Prof. Stanley J. Stein's description of Nixon as the "secret architect" of the Cuban invasion plan was "not quite correct."

Al Moscow, researcher for Nixon's book "Six Crises" and a member of Nixon's gubernatorial campaign staff, told the Times from Los Angeles that Nixon "didn't lay out any secret plans for the invasion," as Prof. Stein charged in a post at Stanford Tuesday evening.

"The invasion plan for Cuba was laid out in consultation with the whole Eisenhower administration and he was part of that," Moscow explained. "But it's not quite correct to say that he mapped the invasion plan."

"He advocated the training of guerrillas to overthrow the Castro regime in whatever way our military men thought it was possible."

STEIN COMMENT

Prof. Stein today commented: "There are many architects that sketch the concept and leave the details to others. Given our present lack of information about the origin of the plan, it might be more appropriate at the moment to say that he was an architect of 'that plan'."

In his book, Nixon discussed the Cuba issue in the 1960 presidential campaign. He wrote:

"I had long been arguing a stronger policy, within administration councils, against Castro. I had a three-hour conference with Castro when he visited Washington back in April, 1959."

After that conference, I wrote a confidential memo for distribution to the CIA, State Department and the House. In it I stated

flatly that I was convinced Castro was either 'incredibly naive about communism or under Communist discipline' and that we would have to treat him and deal with him accordingly — under no further illusions about 'fiery rebels' in the 'tradition of Bolivar.'"

MINORITY VIEW

Nixon noted that he held a minority view within the administration, although FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover and former ambassadors to Cuba Arthur Gardner and Earl E. T. Smith shared his position.

"Early in 1960," he continued, "the position I had been advocating for nine months finally prevailed, and the CIA was given instructions to provide arms, ammunition and training for Cubans who had fled the Castro regime and were now in exile in the United States and various Latin American countries. This program had been in operation for six months before the 1960 campaign got underway. It was a program, however, that I could not say one word about."

Later Nixon added: "I had long favored and fought for (a tougher line against Castro) within the administration, and the covert training of Cuban exiles as well as the new overt quarantine policy were programs due, in substantial part at least, to my efforts."

Nixon charged in the book that Democratic presidential nominee John F. Kennedy had been briefed by CIA chiefs on the invasion plan and endangered it by publicly advocating aid to anti-Castro Cubans.

After this charge was disclosed last March, President Kennedy, through his press secretary, denied that he had been told of the invasion plan until 10 days after the election.